Pending Pension Claims

*234. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that pension claims of several Central Government employees have not been settled for more than 20 years, after their retirement;

(b) if so, the number of such claims pending over five years ;

(c) the reasons for such a long delay in settling the pension claims; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to settle the pension claims of the Central Government employees expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGRET ALVA) : (a) to (d) The system of sanction and payment of pension operates on a decentralised basis. The concerned Ministries and Departments from where a Government servant retires are responsible for ensuring such payments without delay. The statistics regarding non-sanction and non-payment of pension are, therefore, not maintained on a centralised basis. The existing instructions clearly stipulate that Heads of Departments/Offices must ensure compliance of Government orders for authorising pension, provisional or final, by the date of retirement.

Functioning of Kelkar Committee

*235. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of anomalies that have been rectified in the matter of inclusion and exclusion of drugs and what are the names of the drugs involved;

(b) who is accountable for drawing up the list of bulk drugs for price control in the modifications of the drug policy that have been finalised ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that errors and omissions are not committed in the preparation of the lists

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (c) Representations received during the years 1988 to 1990 from the Members of Parliament as well as from industry were in regard to a large number of drugs. These inter-alia questioned the non inclusion of all drugs required for the National Health Programmes under price control, exclusion/inclusion of drugs and their categorisation under price control, and also questioned the use of criteria for this purpose from the angle of transparency and objectivity. In order to eliminate all these aberrations, to the extent practically possible, the Govt. has announced transparent criteria that can be applied across the board on all the drugs with the minimum use of subjectivity. The criteria decided upon by the Government are contained in paragraph 22 7 of 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in Sept., 1994, a copy of which is available in the Parliament library. The Government will draw up the list as part of the Drug (Price Control) Order in accordance with the provisions as contained in the aforesaid paragraph of the 'Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986'.

Service of Major International Airlines in India

*236. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the major International Airlines which do not stop in India ;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is being done to see that such big airlines stop in major Indian cities ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Of the 25 top International Airlines of the world ranked on the basis of Revenue Passenger Kilometers in 1993, the following 13 are not operating scheduled services to India :

1. United Airlines
2. American Airlines
3. Northwest Airlines
4. Continental

5. US Air
6. Japan Airlines
7. Qantas
8. Trans World Airlines
9. All Nippon
10. Southwest Airlines
11. Iberia
12. Varig
13. Canadian Airlines International

(b) and (c) Out of the 13 airlines mentioned above,12 air lines belong to countries which have Air Services Agreements with India. Decisions on operation of air services are taken by airlines based on their own perception of commercial and operational viability.

Plans of Indian Airlines to acquire aircrafts

*237. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airline plans to acquire some aircrafts on lease with an option to purchase them at later stage;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances which have necessitated this step; and

(c) what is the number of aircrafts to be acquired and capacity of each aircraft and the name of the suppliers/manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No final decision has yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pay scale of MT drivers in MES

*238. DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench vide its Order O.A. No. 1493/CH/94 dated 20th April, 1994 accepting the plea of the MT drivers Association (MES) for the scale of pay at par with the MT drivers in the Defence Research and Development Organisation on the principle of "equal pay for equal work", has directed the Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters, New Delhi to consider it in the light of the Supreme Court order on the subject ;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken for the grant of pay to the MT drivers in the Military Engineering Service in accordance with the directive issued by the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench; and if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for dely in deciding the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The Central Administrative Tribunal, Chandigarh Bench (in its OA No. 1493/CH/91) has given a direction to the Engineer-in-Chief, Army Headquarters to consider the representation (filed as Annexure 'A-2' to the OA) by the applicants and pass appropriate orders, keeping in view the principle of "equal pay for equal work" and its application to the facts of the case.

(b) The Engineer-in-Chief's Branch has given a reply to the petitioners who are MT Drivers Grade II and Grade I in the Military Engineer Service that the pay scales admissible to MT Drivers Grade II and Grade I in MES are identical to the corresponding scales admissible for Civilian Motor Drivers Grade II and Grade I respectively in Defence Research and Development Organisation. There is, therefore, no discrimination in the pay scales of MT Driver Grade II and Grade I in MES as was alleged by the petitioners.

(c) Does not arise.

Ex-Servicemen in Gujarat

*239. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of ex-servicemen in Gujarat State at present :

(b) whether Government have prepared any scheme to give them opportunities for employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of ex-servicemen provided with employment during the year 1994-95 under the said scheme ?